

OCS prevents the Commonwealth from having every tool available to address rising energy costs.

Therefore, I rise to introduce legislation to allow Virginia to request oil and natural gas exploration activities off its coast. Should these exploration activities prove fruitful, then the legislation would allow Virginia to petition for drilling for these precious resources. This bill does not mandate that Virginia explore or drill off its coast. It simply removes the Federal Government's longstanding barriers to these activities. The final decision of whether to explore or drill is placed squarely where it should be—in the hands of the people of Virginia, through their State legislature and Governor.

This legislation is not a cure all, and it does not fix the problem all across the country. However, Virginia's two Senators, one from each political party, have introduced similar legislation over in the Senate, and this is promising. In order to demonstrate how broad the support is for allowing States to decide this issue for themselves, I would encourage Members from all States to introduce similar legislation until a threshold of support is achieved that breaks the Democrat leadership's logjam on this issue and allows the will of the American people to be heard.

HONORING BROTHER W.L. BAKER  
AS HE CELEBRATES HIS 100TH  
BIRTHDAY

**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 1, 2008*

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Brother W.L. Baker, a fine citizen and leader in Wilson County, Tennessee, on the occasion of his 100th birthday, August 3, 2008.

Brother Baker has served God as a Baptist minister for more than 80 years, preaching to all in earshot and ministering to all in need. In recent years, in his so-called retirement, Brother Baker has actively served several congregations across Wilson County. Even today, he is an associate pastor at Calvary Baptist Church and has been honored as the oldest living graduate of Cumberland University.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pride to represent someone as selfless, as dedicated to God and fellow man, and as full of life as Brother W.L. Baker. In his actions, he serves as a role model for Americans everywhere and for all of us in the 110th Congress. We are a better people because of his 100 years among us. I ask you to join me in wishing him heartfelt congratulations on his birthday; may he have many more years of peace, gratitude and prosperity.

HONORING DR. HERBERT R. FISCHER  
FOR 37 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS  
IN EDUCATION

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 1, 2008*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and

true leader in my community, Dr. Herbert R. Fischer, who is retiring after 37 years of dedication to educational development and public service throughout the Inland Empire.

After 27 years as a classroom teacher, principal, and district administrator in the San Bernardino City Unified School District and as superintendent of the Colton Joint Unified School District, Dr. Fischer was chosen to be the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, a position he held for 10 years.

The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools office provides support to the 33 K–12 districts and roughly 425,000 students attending more than 500 schools in the county. The County Schools office also provides business and financial curriculum and instruction, personnel, credentials, and management information support to school districts countywide.

Our district is privileged to have many fine educational professionals dedicated to improve the overall well-being of their students. Dr. Fischer is no exception and has taken his love for educational development even further. Under Dr. Fischer's leadership, the County Superintendent of Schools office has improved the State Academic performance index for 7 consecutive years. He has expanded many school safety programs through the Law Enforcement Education Partnership and the Countywide Gangs and Drugs Task Force. Dr. Fischer is also a founder of three regional P–16 Councils that work to eliminate the achievement gap by creating a comprehensive system for all levels of education.

Dr. Fischer's forward thinking has made San Bernardino a model for excellence in community service. In particular, he is credited with developing and implementing Alliance for Education initiative, which has over 1,200 business, labor, community and faith-based partners working with public schools to improve the college, career and labor readiness of students.

Throughout his career in education, Dr. Fischer worked with colleagues, students and parents, to increase college going rates, reduce student drop-out rates, and provide greater Internet and technology access to students and teachers. He also established programs to provide quality curriculums for all students and offer parents more educational choices. Dr. Fischer's hard work and dedication to the future success of our young people is truly appreciated.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Fischer for his many accomplishments and thanking him for making our community a leader in educational and professional advancement. The valuable contributions he has made throughout his career will be remembered for years to come.

INTRODUCING THE HEALTH CARE  
FOR WOMEN RESOLUTION

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 1, 2008*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Health Care for Women Resolution of 2008 with my colleague in the Senate, Senator DEBBIE STABENOW. As we move towards enacting comprehensive Universal

Health Care we cannot leave out the important and unique health care issues of women. Women are often responsible for safeguarding the care for their families and they must be a central part of every universal health care debate.

I believe that the Health Care for Women Resolution recognizes the numerous of women as health care decision makers, caregivers and providers and requires that lawmakers acknowledge their needs during health care reform conversations.

We know that women face exceptional challenges and have a very personal stake in fixing our broken health care system. It is unacceptable that more women are uninsured and pay more for health care than their male counterparts. This resolution calls on Congress to take notice of these obstacles and make significant gains in solving these problems.

This resolution asks Congress to pass legislation within 18 months that provides health care for women and health care for all. I am all too familiar with how tough it is to provide care for our families. As a mother, grandmother and member of Congress, I will fight to make sure that women play a central part in every health care discussion.

The need for this resolution is clear. More than 17 million non-elderly women were uninsured in 2006, an increase of 1.2 million women since 2004. Women also pay 68 percent more than men for out-of-pocket medical costs, largely because of their reproductive health needs. Thirteen percent of all pregnant women are uninsured making them less likely to seek prenatal care and more likely to experience an adverse outcome after giving birth or pregnancy-related mortality.

Older women are particularly at risk. They often receive care through their husband and can become uninsured if their husband dies or loses private insurance by becoming eligible for Medicare. Because they have less disposable income, older women also have trouble paying growing out-of-pocket costs for the care they need. Moreover many older women have periodically left the workforce to raise families or care for aging family members they tend to have lower Social Security and pension benefits required to help them with increasing chronic care conditions.

Any health care discussions must also take into account the barriers women of color face in accessing quality care. Hispanic and Native American women and children are 3 times and African Americans nearly twice as likely to be uninsured than non-Hispanic whites.

I along with 32 of my colleagues in both the House and Senate agree, it is time to start acknowledging women in all efforts that we make to solve our nation's growing health care crisis.

I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1338) to amend